

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 SCCT-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1996

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

UNCLAS BEIRUT 15294

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: DID ALGERIA'S MADGHARI COMMIT SUICIDE?

1. ARTICLE PUBLISHED HERE DEC 21 IN LEFTIST WEEKLY AD DUSTOUR, ALLEGES ALGERIAN MININT AHMED MADGHARI COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER PLOT TO OVERTHROW PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE WAS DISCOVERED.

2. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, PLOT WAS MASTERMINDED BY MADGHARI AND CHERIF BELKACEM (WHO REPORTEDLY FLED TO FRANCE LAST WEEK) AND WAS UNCOVERED BY SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE UNDER PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF BOUMEDIENNE. WHEN BOUMEDIENNE ALLEGEDLY CONFRONTED MADGHARI WITH THIS INFORMATION, LATTER REPORTEDLY DECLARED REPENTENCE AND LATER WENT HOME AND COMMITTED SUICIDE.

3. AD DUSTOUR STATED THAT REASON FOR ALIENATION OF MADGHARI AND BELKACEM WAS THEIR OPPOSITION TO BOUMEDIENNE'S "ARABIZATION" POLICY--I.E., ALGERIA'S CLOSE COOPERATION WITH ARAB STATES WHILE BUILDING MODERN DOMESTIC STATE, PLUS BOUMEDIENNE'S BELIEF THAT ALGERIA SHOULD BE "ARABIZED" IN ALL FIELDS AND THAT PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION IS EXTENSION OF ALGERIAN REVOLUTION. ACCORDING TO DUSTOUR, MADGHARI AND BELKACOM, WHILE NOT OPPOSING ALGERIAN COOPERATION WITH ARAB STATES, CALLED FOR GREATER ATTENTION TO DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AND MAINTAINED THAT

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"ALGERIA SHOULD ACT ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO

ITS OWN SELF-INTERESTS."

4. ADMITTING THAT DETAILS OF PLOT ARE SKETCHY, DUSTOUR SAID MADGHARI AND BELKACEM BEGAN "WHISPERING CAMPAIGN" OF FALSE REPORTS AND FALSE PICTURES IN ORDER TO DESTROY BOUMEDIENNE'S CREDIBILITY AND POPULARITY IN ARMY AND POLITICAL CIRCLES AS FIRST STEP IN "LONG-RANGE PLAN" FOR HIS OVERTHROW. BY DEC 10, THE CONFLICT REPORTEDLY HAD GROWN EXTREMELY FIERCE, THE CONSPIRACY HAD REACHED FINAL STAGES, AND BOUMEDIENNE WAS FORCED TO REACT. GODLEY

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